



## News From the Field

National child welfare policy, practice and research

### From the Desk of the Executive Director

As the new academic year unfolds, the Field Center is immersed in a variety of activities centered around the theme of education.

We are pleased to welcome back Dr. Richard Gelles, founding Faculty Director of the Field Center, in the new role of Managing Faculty Director.

From enhancing opportunities for higher education for foster youth and training the next generation of child welfare leaders through our Multidisciplinary Student Training Institute, to providing educational opportunities for professionals and educating the community through our research and advocacy work, the Field Center continues to advance scholarship in the field of child welfare.

We encourage you to take advantage of learning opportunities with the Field Center and to partner with us as we work to improve the lives of children and youth involved with the child welfare system.

Debra Schilling Wolfe  
Executive Director  
The Field Center for Children's Policy, Practice and Research



### PA Foster Care Tuition Waiver Legislation - Webinar Training

The Field Center and the Juvenile Law Center jointly presented a webinar entitled "**Updates on the Fostering Independence Through Education Act: Senate Edition.**"

This webinar reviews the provisions of **Pennsylvania HB 1745** and explain how participants can advocate for the bill's passage.

Click [here](#) to view the webinar training.

### Stay Connected and Stay Informed

Stay up to date with the latest in child welfare by following the Field Center on social media. Click the buttons below to follow The Field Center.

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### Upcoming Conferences, Trainings, & Events

**2018 American Association of Health and Human Services Attorneys Annual Education and Training Conference**  
Oct 13-17, 2018  
Monterey, CA  
[More information](#)

**Shared Hope International JuST 2018 Conference**  
Oct 16-18, 2018  
San Diego, CA  
[More information](#)

**Kempe Center 2018 Conference on Innovations in Family Engagement**  
Oct 16-19, 2018  
Vail, CO  
[More information](#)

**30th Annual NAEHCY Conference**  
Oct 27-30, 2018  
Anaheim, CA  
[More information](#)

**Council on Social Work Education 64th Annual Program Meeting**  
Nov 8-11, 2018  
Orlando, FL

### SAVE THE DATE!

**One Child, Many Hands**  
A Multidisciplinary Conference on Child Welfare  
The Field Center for Children's Policy, Practice & Research  
**June 5 - 7, 2019**

### CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS JUST RELEASED

A [Call for Presentations](#) has just been issued. Proposed presentations are solicited that advance the field of child welfare from the perspective of a variety of disciplines. Information can be found on the conference website at [onechildmanyhands.org](http://onechildmanyhands.org) and submission materials may be accessed directly by clicking [here](#). Proposals must include a cover sheet, maximum 25-word abstract, three learning objectives, and maximum 500-word description. The deadline for submissions is December 15, 2018.

The Field Center for Children's Policy, Practice and Research will hold its biennial *One Child, Many Hands: A Multidisciplinary Conference on Child Welfare* in Philadelphia, June 5 - 7, 2019 at the beautiful and historic University of Pennsylvania Law School. The multi-day conference will consist of three days of learning, featuring compelling Keynote Speakers, cutting-edge Plenary Panels, a variety of Workshops presented by national and international experts, closing with a Networking Luncheon.

### FIELD CENTER WELCOMES DR. RICHARD GELLES BACK AS MANAGING FACULTY DIRECTOR

**Richard J. Gelles, PhD**, has returned to the Field Center in the new role as Managing Faculty Director. A prolific scholar in the child welfare field, Dr. Gelles is the Joanne and Raymond Welsh Chair of Child Welfare and Family Violence and former Dean of the University of Pennsylvania's School of Social Policy & Practice. He was the Field Center's founding co-faculty director when it launched in 1999 and is a stalwart, driving figure in the mission to enhance and ensure the well-being of at-risk children.

### All Family Separations Are Not the Same: Reflections on the Border Crisis

By Richard J. Gelles, PhD, Managing Faculty Director

The United States government policy of separating undocumented children from their parents at the southern border was, and remains, both egregious and a form of government child maltreatment. Thousands of children were separated at the onset of the Department of Justice's new "zero tolerance" policy. Weeks after a federal court ordered the government to re-unite children with their caregivers, hundreds of children remain separated and detained in facilities across the U.S.



Given my experience in the child welfare field, I was not entirely surprised that in the wake of the government's actions to separate children from parents, other parent's rights advocates would piggyback their concern about child separation onto the issue of undocumented children. [Read more >](#)

## SIX PENNSYLVANIA COLLEGES SELECTED FOR STATEWIDE EXPANSION OF CAMPUS-BASED SUPPORT PROGRAMS FOR FOSTER YOUTH

In an effort to expand options for college-going foster youth in Pennsylvania, the Field Center issued its first statewide call for applications to receive technical assistance and training to develop new campus-based support programs specifically for foster youth. Although 70% of foster youth aspire to attend college, they enroll at less than half the rate of their peers and most don't attend beyond their first year. Campus-based support programs can change that trajectory.

Joining the eight colleges selected during the first two rounds are **Bloomsburg University**, **Community College of Allegheny - South Campus**, **East Stroudsburg University**, **Kutztown University**, **Penn State Greater Allegheny**, and **Westmoreland County Community College**. Each school will be provided with comprehensive technical assistance by the Field Center's Stoneleigh Emerging Leader Fellow, Seth Morones, who will work with a team at each school to design and roll out a program targeted at supporting foster youth on their campus. Such programs identify a single point-of-contact for foster youth to connect them with designated champions in financial aid, housing, academic support, counseling and more. Program services often include additional services such as year-round housing, food banks, employment assistance, social gatherings, and emergency funds.



To learn more about the challenges foster youth face in post-secondary education, resources for youth and professionals, and the Field Center's work in this area, please visit the Field Center's Foster Care to College website at [www.fostercaretocollege.org](http://www.fostercaretocollege.org).

[More information](#)

American Public Health Association  
 APHA's 2018 Annual Meeting & Expo  
 Nov 10-14, 2018  
 San Diego, CA

[More information](#)

ISPCAN Caribbean Regional Conference  
 Dec 2-5, 2018  
 Montego Bay, Jamaica

[More information](#)

SSWR Twenty-Third Annual Conference  
 Jan 16-20, 2019  
 San Francisco, CA

[More information](#)

National Children's Advocacy Center  
 35th Annual Symposium on Child Abuse  
 Mar 18-21, 2019  
 Huntsville, AL

[More information](#)

2019 CWLA National Conference  
 Advancing in Practice & Policy: Meeting the Challenge of the Family First Prevention Services Act  
 April 9-13, 2019  
 Washington, DC

[More information](#)

2019 National IV-E Roundtable for Child Welfare Training and Education  
 May 21-23, 2019  
 Atlantic City, NJ

[More information](#)

One Child, Many Hands: A Multidisciplinary Conference on Child Welfare  
 June 5-7, 2019  
 Philadelphia, PA

[More information](#)

## FIELD CENTER PRESENTS RESEARCH AT INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABUSE CONFERENCE



The Field Center was selected to present its research on "Findings From a Multi-city Study of Human Trafficking Prevalence and Child Welfare Risk Factors Among Homeless Youth" at the ISPCAN XXII International Congress on Child Abuse & Neglect in Prague, Czech Republic.

Debra Schilling Wolfe and Dr. Johanna Greeson, co-Principal Investigators on this comprehensive research study, travelled to Prague in the Czech Republic to share the Field Center's groundbreaking work, part of the largest study to date on the prevalence of trafficking among homeless youth and the first to develop and implement a survey to examine child welfare risk factors for child sex trafficking.

ISPCAN, the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, was founded in 1977 by C. Henry Kempe and is the only international non-profit organization that brings together professionals that work toward the prevention and treatment of child abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

To read the Field Center's research study, click [here](#).

Help advance the work of the Field Center

The Field Center is pioneering innovative and critical work in child welfare.

All gifts made to the Field Center will be generously matched dollar for dollar by the Joseph and Marie Field Foundation.

**DONATE NOW**

To learn more about how you can support our work, please contact Director of Development **Hannah Rawdin** at [hrawdin@upenn.edu](mailto:hrawdin@upenn.edu) or (215) 573-9724.

For more information [click here](#).

## CURRENT LEGISLATION: TUITION WAIVERS FOR FOSTER YOUTH IN PA

Pennsylvania is on the cusp of joining 28 other states in removing a significant barrier for foster youth to attend college: paying for college tuition.

Following its introduction in August 2017, **The Fostering Independence Through Education Act (HB 1745)** passed the Pennsylvania House in June by a unanimous vote (194-0) and currently sits in the Senate Education Committee. To be enacted in the current legislative session, this bill must be voted out of committee and passed by the full Senate before the legislature adjourns in time for the upcoming mid-term elections.



The Fostering Independence Through Education Act creates a tuition and fee waiver for undergraduate degrees at public post-secondary educational institutions for Pennsylvania foster youth who meet certain eligibility criteria. The waiver would cover remaining tuition and fees after all federal and state grants have been exhausted at any Pennsylvania community college, university within the State System of Higher Education (PASSHE), or a state-affiliated institution, including Pennsylvania State University, University of Pittsburgh, Temple University, Lincoln University, and Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology. [Read more >](#)

To view our infographic, "5 Things PA Residents Should Know About HB 1745," click [here](#).

## FIELD CENTER WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS TO ADVISORY BOARD



**Ann N. Reese** is the co-founder and Executive Director of the Center for Adoption Policy, whose goal is to remove legal and policy barriers to adoption. Mrs. Reese spent over 25 years in a career in finance. Formerly the CFO of ITT, she also worked at Clayton, Dubilier & Rice, Mobil Oil, Union Carbide, and Bankers Trust.

Mrs. Reese has an MBA from New York University and a BA from the University of Pennsylvania. She is a director of DTCC, Genesee & Wyoming, and Sears Holdings. Mrs. Reese is a Trustee of the University of Pennsylvania, where she is a member of the Executive Committee and chair of the Audit Committee. She is also President of Penn Alumni and a member of the Board of Overseers of the School of Social Policy & Practice (SP2) at Penn.

**Nadeem A. Bezar** is a partner at Kline & Specter. Mr. Bezar joined the firm after gaining more than 20 years of experience with another Philadelphia firm at which he was a name partner, Kolsby, Gordon, Robin, Shore & Bezar. His practice concentrates on medical negligence, catastrophic personal injury, and cases involving child abuse and human trafficking, sexual assault, and Title IX violations on college and university campuses. While known for his expertise in the courtroom, Mr. Bezar also has built a reputation for the genuine empathy he holds for his clients.

Mr. Bezar earned his undergraduate degree from Bates College, where he was on the varsity baseball team. He received a master's degree in engineering from the University of Massachusetts and his law degree from the Temple University Beasley School of Law. He is on the executive committee of the Temple Law Alumni Association and recently received the TLAA Diversity Leadership Award. Mr. Bezar is on the Board of Directors of the Juvenile Law Center and the Temple Law Alumni Association.



## FIELD CENTER RECENT PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Faculty Director [Cindy Christian, MD](#) has been named Chair of the new Philadelphia Department of Human Services Child Welfare Oversight Board (CWOB).

*Children and Drug Safety: Balancing Risk and Protection in Twentieth Century America*, a book authored by Faculty Director [Cynthia Connolly, PhD, RN, FAAN](#), received the distinguished *Arthur J. Visellear Prize*. This award is given each year by the American Public Health Association (APHA) to a historian who has made outstanding contributions to the history of public health. To read the full article, click [here](#).

The Child Welfare Resource Center hosted a webinar aimed at caseworkers for older youth entitled "*Fostering the Future: Making College a Reality for Pennsylvania Foster Youth*," featuring the Field Center's Foster Care to College team, including [Debra Schilling Wolfe, MEd](#), [Sarah Wasch, MSW](#), and [Seth Morones, MEd](#). Click [here](#) to view the webinar.

Faculty Director [Sara Jaffee, PhD](#), along with Antony Ambler, MSc, Melissa Merrick, PhD, et. al., published "Childhood Maltreatment Predicts Poor Economic and Educational Outcomes in the Transition to Adulthood," featured in the American Journal of Public Health. Click [here](#) to read the full article.

Faculty Director [Dr. Johanna Greeson](#) and Executive Director [Debra Schilling Wolfe, MEd](#), co-Principal Investigators, represented the Field Center's research team in presenting our research on "*Findings From a Multi-city Study of Human Trafficking Prevalence and Child Welfare Risk Factors Among Homeless Youth*" at the ISPCAN XXII International Congress on Child Abuse & Neglect in Prague, Czech Republic.

Field Center Program Manager [Sarah Wasch, MSW](#) provided a training on "Fostering the Future: Making College a Reality for Pennsylvania Foster Youth" to select teachers from the Philadelphia School District.

[Cindy Christian, MD](#) recently presented at the following conferences and councils: New York State Police Conference on Child Physical Abuse (Albany, New York), Army TCAP course (Denver, CO), National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (Denver, CO), American Academy of Pediatrics (Philadelphia, PA), and Child Abuse Prosecution Project's Western Regional Conference, Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (Denver, CO).

[Seth Morones, MEd](#), Stoneleigh Emerging Leader Fellow, presented a workshop on "From Foster Care to College" for college-bound foster youth at the Child Welfare Resource Center's Youth Retreat College Fair.

## CREATING AN EFFECTIVE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM - FREE ONLINE COURSE



Child Welfare Policy is not rocket science - it is harder! Join Dr. Richard Gelles, the Joanne and Raymond Welsh Chair of Child Welfare and Family Violence at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Social Policy & Practice and Managing Faculty Director of the Field Center for Children's Policy, Practice & Research, for a free [Massive Open Online Course](#) (MOOC).

This unique online experience will challenge participants to consider: who is the client - the child or the parent? Participants will be presented many points of view, both in the course content and from peer learners from around the world. Participants will also have the opportunity to reflect on policies in their specific locations, distill the challenges and opportunities the child welfare system faces, and develop strategies to advocate for change within the child welfare system. Participants can choose to upgrade to the verified certificate and complete the course materials, and receive [4 NASW Approved CEUs toward continuing social work licensure](#).

Join for free today by clicking [here](#).

## WELCOME TO NEW MSW STUDENTS

Through its [Multidisciplinary Student Training Institute](#), The Field Center provides internship and field placement opportunities for selected students across multiple disciplines. Students receive training, career mentorship, and hands-on opportunities to develop their macro skills within the field of child welfare. Each year, The Field Center works with a cohort of graduate social work students, a law fellow in child welfare policy, and other promising graduate and undergraduate students, to create the next generation of leaders. The 2018-19 academic year is off to a great start with a cohort of University of Pennsylvania MSW students bringing a wealth of child welfare and professional experience to the center.



**Erin Bridges** is an Advanced Standing MSW candidate concentrating in macro and global human rights work. She earned a for two years, mentoring and tutoring 6th grade students and spearheading various organizational change projects. BSW degree from Syracuse University in 2015 before serving as a City Year AmeriCorps Member in Boston Public Schools



**Kathryn (Kat) Kirkman** is a veteran of the US Air Force where she earned her BS in Astronautical Engineering at the AirForce Academy in 2011 and served as an aerial refueling and tanker pilot. She is a second year MSW candidate whose first year field placement was providing child welfare case management services with Turning Points for Children.



**Kym Rosen** is a 2010 graduate of West Chester University where she obtained a Bachelor of Social Work degree. Since that time, she has worked for Delaware County Children and Youth Services as an intake caseworker and supervisor. Kym recently moved into a new position as a program specialist, where she works on agency policy and quality assurance while completing her graduate degree.



**Megan Young** is an Advanced Standing student who obtained her BSW degree from Lancaster Bible College in May 2018. Megan has interned with National Association of Social Workers - Pennsylvania, a PA state representative, and with theVictim/Witness Unit in the Lancaster County District Attorney's Office. Megan currently works as a house parent in a group home for foster children and teen parents.

To read full biographies of current Field Center students click [here](#).

## The Field Center in the Media:



### This is Why Advocates are Supporting LGBTQ Foster Parents in Court Generocity

In the ongoing legal battle between Catholic Social Services and the City of Philadelphia, questions of religious liberty and anti-discrimination in the foster care system are on trial. Meanwhile, the Office of LGBT Affairs is actively recruiting prospective foster parents.

[Continue to the full article >](#)



### The Child-Separation Crisis No One Sees *The Washington Post*

While America argued about whether the Trump administration was right to separate children at the border, a much larger child-separation crisis has gone almost entirely unremarked: in America's foster-care system. And in this case, the problem is not that we're taking too many children away from their parents. We're not taking enough.

[Continue to the full article >](#)



### This Pa. Senate Needs to Pass This Bill Giving Foster Kids a Real Shot at Higher Ed | Opinion *Penn Live*

As new students begin to settle in to their first semester at college, they are filled with excitement about what lays ahead. A hidden group of young people face a very different experience. The transition from foster care to college is anything but a smooth path.

[Continue to the full article >](#)

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Click the link below to learn more about The Field Center  
[www.fieldcenteratpenn.org](http://www.fieldcenteratpenn.org)

To receive more information about Field Center work, trainings, and events please click [HERE](#).